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BOROUGH OF EAST RETFORD

# ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1955



OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

R. C. BARKER, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

INCLUDING THE

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

F. R. SMITH

CERT. ROY. SAN. INST., CERT. INSPECTOR OF MEAT

RETFORD

PRINTED BY WINTER AND SON, GROVE STREET

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**BOROUGH OF EAST RETFORD  
HEALTH COMMITTEE**

(as at 31st December 1955)

ALDERMAN A. WILSON (*Chairman*)

ALDERMAN J. R. WATERFIELD (*Vice-Chairman*)

ALDERMAN F. NETTLETON

ALDERMAN E. E. SUTTON

ALDERMAN L. TANNER

COUNCILLOR MISS N. BRADSHAW

COUNCILLOR B. POLLARD

COUNCILLOR J. W. PEATFIELD

COUNCILLOR MRS. M. E. WILLIAMSON

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**PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF**

*Medical Officer of Health:*

R. C. BARKER, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

*Sanitary Inspector:*

F. R. SMITH, CERT. ROY. SAN. INST., CERT. INSPECTOR OF MEAT

*Clerks:*

MISS M. JOHNSON, MRS. J. ELSOM

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
CHANCERY LANE,  
RET福德.

*August 1956*

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND COUNCILLORS  
OF THE BOROUGH OF EAST RET福德.

MADAM MAYOR, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my annual report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your Borough for the year 1955.

At 31st December I had been in office as Medical Officer of Health to the Borough for three months and was able to get only a general picture of the conditions in the Borough, but since then as time permits I am seeing some situations in more detail.

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population of the Borough was 16,850 persons, a decrease of 20 on last year's figures.

The number of live births was 275, a birth rate of 16.32 compared with 15.0 for England and Wales.

The Death Rate was 10.38 compared with 11.7 for England and Wales.

The Infantile Mortality was 14.54 which compares very favourably with that for England and Wales which was 24.9.

Analysis of the Vital Statistics shows an increased Birth Rate, a decreased Death Rate, and very greatly decreased Infant Mortality Rate (the latter being 14.54 as compared with 50.20 for 1954).

The incidence of infectious disease was greater in 1955 than in 1954, the numbers of notifications being 186 and 108 respectively, but there was no outbreak of a serious nature. Of the total number of notifications of infectious disease, Dysentery accounted for 32.97%.

Dysentery is a disease which has changed in character and prevalence in the last twenty years in this country. Formerly it was a comparatively rare and very fatal disease, now it is of a mild nature but very widespread. Occasional severe and even fatal cases can occur in the very young and very old. Apart, however,

from the occasional serious case there is much loss of schooling and of working time involved in connection with the mild cases. I would therefore emphasise here that attention to personal hygiene, particularly the washing of hands immediately after a visit to the toilet is the main means of prevention of this disease.

There was one case of Poliomyelitis in a child aged 11 years. It was of the paralytic variety but fortunately was very mild.

Primary notifications of Tuberculosis numbered only six as compared with 17 in 1954.

## **Immunisation**

In October, 1955, immunisation against Whooping Cough was introduced by the County Council in the form of a combined prophylactic against Whooping Cough and Diphtheria.

My predecessor last year mentioned the low percentage of immunisation against Diphtheria and I would also like to bring it to your notice. Experience in 1955 throughout the country has shown that in communities where immunisation is low the risk of infection can be considerable. To ensure a satisfactory state of affairs 75% of babies should be immunised, and the present level is far below this.

## **Housing**

I am grateful to Mr. Rickard, the Housing Manager, for the following particulars about the housing position.

“The number of houses completed in 1955 was 127, of which 110 were erected by the Corporation. This was an increase of 30 on 1954. The total number of applicants remained substantially the same but the number in lodgings was reduced by about 50. The waiting time for applicants in lodgings is still generally about two years. As a result of a reduced allocation from the Government in 1955, the number of houses which can be expected in 1956 will certainly be fewer than in past years, and since from this reduced number quite a large proportion will need to be allocated to families displaced from unfit houses, the position of the ordinary applicant is quite likely to deteriorate. One or two firms are commencing the erection of a number of houses for sale, and it is possible that this may in some small measure help the housing situation.”

In 1955 a start was made on the clearance of unfit houses. A Compulsory Purchase Order in respect of houses in Little Lane, Woolpack Street, and Wellington Street was confirmed by the Minister of Housing and steps are being taken actually to acquire these houses preparatory to the re-housing of the occupants and the removal of the buildings. At the junction of Spital Hill and Lidgett Lane, 28 houses are in the course of construction

and this will enable some of the families to be re-housed near to the area in which they have lived.

It is hoped that the Council will be encouraged by the Housing Subsidies Act to continue with this work of clearance of unfit houses because in Retford there are a number of houses which have reached the stage of being "worn-out" and not repairable at a reasonable cost; they are in a dilapidated condition, have serious structural defects and lack reasonable modern amenities necessary for the maintenance of health.

It is with pleasure I take this opportunity of recording my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee and to the Council as a whole for the help and support they have given me. I also wish to thank the Chief Officers of the other Departments of the Borough Council for their ready co-operation. Finally I wish to thank the staff of the Public Health Department and in particular Mr. Smith who was so aptly described by my predecessor as a "tower of strength".

I am,

Your obedient servant,

ROSETTA C. BARKER,

*Medical Officer of Health*

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area .....	4,657 acres
Registrar General's estimated population, mid-year, 1955 .....	16,850
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1955 ..	5,281
Rateable Value, June, 1956 .....	£194,609
Sum represented by Penny Rate at 1st April, 1956	£735

### VITAL STATISTICS

#### Live Births

	Total	M	F	
Legitimate .....	268	135	133	
Illegitimate.....	7	3	4	
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population .....				16.32
Birth Rate of England and Wales per 1,000 estimated population .....				15.0

#### Still Births

	Total	M	F	
Legitimate .....	9	3	6	
Illegitimate.....	—	—	—	
Rate per 1,000 total births .....				32.72
Rate per 1,000 estimated population.....				0.53
Rate per 1,000 total births England and Wales .....				23.1

#### Maternal Mortality

Pregnancy, childbirth, and abortion .....	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still).....	Nil

#### Infantile Mortality

	Total	M	F	
Legitimate .....	4	3	1	
Illegitimate.....	—	—	—	
Death Rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .....				14.92
Death Rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .....				Nil
Death rate of all infants per 1,000 live births.....				14.54
Infantile Mortality Rate of England and Wales per 1,000 live births .....				24.9

Deaths	Total	M	F
	175	94	81
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population . . . . .			10 .38
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population England and Wales . . . . .			11 .7

All the above rates are calculated on the estimated population given by the Registrar General.

### Classified Causes of Death

The deaths include those of 34 persons in institutions outside the Borough, 21 males and 13 females.

Tuberculosis, respiratory . . . . .	2
Tuberculosis, other . . . . .	0
Syphilitic disease . . . . .	1
Diphtheria . . . . .	0
Whooping Cough . . . . .	0
Meningococcal infection . . . . .	0
Acute Poliomyelitis . . . . .	0
Measles . . . . .	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases . . . . .	0
Malignant neoplasms, stomach . . . . .	6
Malignant neoplasms, lung, bronchus . . . . .	4
Malignant neoplasms, breast . . . . .	3
Malignant neoplasms, uterus . . . . .	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms . .	13
Leukaemia and aleukaemia . . . . .	2
Diabetes . . . . .	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system . . . . .	38
Coronary disease, angina . . . . .	26
Hypertension with heart disease . . . . .	3
Other heart disease . . . . .	19
Other circulatory diseases . . . . .	8
Influenza . . . . .	1
Pneumonia . . . . .	5
Bronchitis . . . . .	19
Other diseases of respiratory system . . . . .	0
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum . . . . .	1
Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea . . . . .	1
Nephritis and nephrosis . . . . .	0
Hyperplasia of prostate . . . . .	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, and abortion . . . . .	0

Congenital malformations . . . . .	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases . . . . .	14
Motor vehicle accidents . . . . .	1
All other accidents . . . . .	2
Suicide . . . . .	0
Homicide and operations of war . . . . .	0

### **Causes of Infant Deaths.**

	1954	1955
Prematurity . . . . .	5	2
Congenital abnormalities . . . . .	3	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage . . . . .	3	0
Broncho-Pneumonia . . . . .	1	0
Acute Cardio-Vascular Failure . . . . .	0	1

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES**

### **(a) UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE NOTTS COUNTY COUNCIL :**

I am grateful to the County Medical Officer for supplying the figures of attendances.

#### **(1) Child Welfare Service**

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at the Old Day Nursery, Market Square, Retford, at the following times :

Mondays : 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Thursdays : 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Fridays : 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Your Medical Officer is in attendance on Mondays and alternate Thursdays.

283 New cases attended the Centre during the year and there were 1,038 Medical Consultations. Total attendances amounted to 4,427.

#### **(2) Maternity Services**

Ante-natal Clinics are held at the Infant Welfare Centre each Wednesday from 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

85 New cases attended the Ante-Natal Clinic during the year and there were 423 Medical Consultations. Total attendances amounted to 424. There were two attendances at the Post-Natal Clinic with two Medical Consultations.

Mothers who can, and wish to be confined at home, are attended by one of the County Midwives, of whom there are three in the Borough, viz :

MRS. RENSHAW,  
125 Northfield Way, Retford.  
*Telephone No.* Retford 718.

MRS. L. GREGORY,  
2 Woodlands, Whinney Moor Lane, Retford.  
*Telephone No.* Retford 2180.

MISS K. BERRY,  
9 Richmond Road, Retford.  
*Telephone No.* Retford 197.

In those cases that require hospital confinement because of social conditions or medical reasons, the necessary investigation and booking is made by the County Health Department.

### **(3) Home Nursing**

This service is provided by the Retford and District Nursing Association, and the work is carried out on its behalf by three Queen's Nurses, names and addresses as follows :

MISS M. CARTER,  
16 Osberton Road, Retford.  
*Telephone No.* Retford 457.

MRS. PEARSON,  
12 Victoria Road, Retford.  
*Telephone No.* Retford 545.

MRS. WYLEY,  
5 Millfield Close, Ordsall, Retford.

### **(4) Dental Treatment**

Dental treatment is provided for pre-school children and expectant and nursing mothers by appointment at the Child Welfare Centre.

### **(5) Home Help Service**

The office is in Chancery Lane, Retford. This most useful service provides domestic help to necessitous cases.

### **(6) School Medical Service**

School Clinics are held at the Infant Welfare Centre, Market Square, Retford, on Mondays and Fridays from 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Your Medical Officer, is in attendance every Friday.

Dental Clinics for school children are held in the same

building at the following times :

Mondays : 4.30 p.m. to 7.0 p.m.  
Thursdays : 4.30 p.m. to 7.0 p.m.  
Saturdays : 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

### (7) Ambulance Service

The main ambulance station is situated in the Retford Borough and the vehicles comprise four ambulances and two dual purpose vehicles, which will carry six sitting cases or three sitting cases and one stretcher case.

The Station Supervisor is Mr. G. Brookes. Office: Exchange Street, Retford. Telephone No. Retford 400.

## (b) UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SHEFFIELD REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD :

### (1) Chest Clinic

Chest Clinics are held at the Retford and District Hospital every Tuesday between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

### (2) Orthopaedic Clinic

Orthopaedic Clinics are held at the Retford and District Hospital every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of each week from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon attends the Clinic on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month.

### (3) Venereal Disease Clinics

The nearest clinics are at Mansfield and Worksop.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### Public Water Supply

There is nothing new to report, the supply is plentiful and of good quality. No sample was sent for chemical analysis but 204 samples were tested bacteriologically and all proved to be satisfactory.

Particulars of samples are given hereunder :

<i>Date</i>	<i>After Chlorination</i>	<i>Before Chlorination</i>	<i>Result (Class No)</i>
4. 1. 55	3	1	(3 Class 1, 1 Class 2)
10. 1. 55	3	1	1
17. 1. 55	3	1	1
25. 1. 56	3	1	1
1. 2. 55	3	1	1

<i>Date</i>	<i>After Chlorination</i>	<i>Before Chlorination</i>	<i>Result (Class No.)</i>
7. 2. 55	3	1	1
14. 2. 55	3	1	1
21. 2. 55	3	1	1
28. 2. 55	3	1	1
7. 3. 55	3	1	1
14. 3. 55	3	1	1
21. 3. 55	3	1	1
29. 3. 55	3	1	1
4. 4. 55	3	1	1
14. 4. 55	3	1	1
18. 4. 55	3	1	1
26. 4. 55	3	1	1
2. 5. 55	3	1	1
16. 5. 55	3	1	1
9. 5. 55	3	1	1
23. 5. 55	3	1	1
1. 6. 55	3	1	1
6. 6. 55	3	1	1
13. 6. 55	3	1	1
21. 6. 55	3	1	1
27. 6. 55	3	1	1
4. 7. 55	3	1	1
11. 7. 55	3	1	1
18. 7. 55	3	1	1
25. 7. 55	3	1	1
3. 8. 55	3	1	1
8. 8. 55	9	1	1
16. 8. 55	3	1	1
22. 8. 55	3	1	1
29. 8. 55	3	1	1
6. 9. 55	3	1	1
13. 9. 55	3	1	1
19. 9. 55	3	1	1
26. 9. 55	3	1	1
3. 10. 55	3	1	1
10. 10. 55	3	1	1
17. 10. 55	3	1	1
24. 10. 55	3	1	1
31. 10. 55	3	1	1
8. 11. 55	3	1	1
14. 11. 55	3	1	1
21. 11. 55	3	1	1
29. 11. 55	3	1	1
5. 12. 55	3	1	1
12. 12. 55	3	1	1
19. 12. 55	3	1	1

The grading in Column 4 is given in the Ministry of Health Report No. 71, 1939, "The Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies", as follows :

<i>Presumptive Coliform Count per ml.</i>	
Class 1 — Highly satisfactory . . . . .	less than 1.
Class 2 — Satisfactory . . . . .	1-2.
Class 3 — Suspicious . . . . .	3-10.
Class 4 — Unsatisfactory . . . . .	greater than 10.

**Refuse Disposal**

Controlled tipping continued at the gravel pits of the North Notts Gravel Co Ltd, adjoining the northern boundary of the Borough.

**PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

The total number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified (excluding Tuberculosis) was 180.

There were five deaths.

The following table shows the incidence of the common infectious diseases over the last five years.

	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951
Diphtheria . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery . . . . .	61	6	—	—	6
Food Poisoning . . . .	4	3	3	2	3
Measles . . . . .	61	10	561	73	10
Paratyphoid . . . . .	3	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis . . . . .	1	1	1	3	1
Puerperal Pyrexia . .	—	—	—	2	—
Scarlet Fever . . . . .	13	17	54	53	17
Whooping Cough . .	22	35	55	4	35
TOTALS . . . .	165	72	674	137	72

**Public Health Bacteriology**

The bacteriology for the Department has been carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Lincoln.

645 Specimens were submitted for examination.

**Diphtheria and Whooping Cough**

Again there were no cases of Diphtheria. There were 22 cases of Whooping Cough.

I mention these two diseases together because as I mentioned before a combined prophylactic for protection against both these diseases has been provided since October, 1955.

Below are given details of immunisation for the year 1955.

Number of children who received primary immunisation :	
By Public Health Department .....	40
By General Practitioners .....	122
	<hr/> 162
Number of children given reinforcing doses :	
By Public Health Department .....	120
By General Practitioners .....	42
	<hr/> 162

### Dysentery

The notifications of dysentery number 61 compared with six in the previous year. The incidence of this disease was mainly associated with a primary school.

### Paratyphoid

There were three cases of this infection in the Borough but from investigations it was thought that this infection did not originate in the Borough but was brought from outside.

### Tuberculosis

The table below gives the age and sex incidence for new cases notified during the year and the deaths from Tuberculosis which occurred during the year.

For 1954 the numbers were : 12 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and five new cases of the Non-Pulmonary type. Three deaths were registered during that year.

#### TUBERCULOSIS

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pul-monary		Non-Pul-monary		Pul-monary		Non-Pul-monary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1- 2 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2- 3 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3- 4 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4- 5 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20 .....	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-35 .....	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—
35-45 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-64 .....	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS .....	3	1	1	1	1	1	—	—

## WELFARE OF THE AGED

The duties of Local Sanitary Authorities in regard to the care of the aged are very limited, being in the main confined to taking action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, and under Section 1 of the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, which provide for the compulsory removal to suitable accommodation of persons whose physical state and environmental conditions justify such action. Nevertheless, information regarding old people and requests for assistance are made to the Public Health Department.

During 1955 the condition of several old persons was brought to the notice of the Department. The homes were visited and every effort made to provide the assistance appropriate to the case. Cleansing treatment was given in the case of one old lady.

There were no cases which needed to be dealt with under Section 47.

## REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1955

*To the Medical Officer of Health :*

Madam,

I have much pleasure in presenting my report on the work done during the year 1955.

The year was one of steady progress in all phases of environmental hygiene. Probably the main events of the year were connected with the clearance of unfit houses from the Borough. The Ministry held their local enquiry on the Council's Compulsory Purchase Order on the houses in or adjoining the Spital Hill Clearance Area on 21st June, 1955, and the order was confirmed by the Ministry in September 1955. The work of inspection of other houses regarded as unfit was proceeding meanwhile.

The sections of the Housing Repairs and Rents Acts, 1954, dealing with rent increases have been little used in the town and so the position of low rents and minimum expenditure on upkeep by the owners continues to aggravate the housing position. As the cost of building still rises, the necessity for a policy which will ensure the proper upkeep of the nation's houses becomes more evident and further delay will tend to increase the number of dwellings in the unfit for habitation class.

During 1955, 81 complaints were received and investigated, nuisances being found in 68 cases.

132 Informal notices, requiring the abatement of nuisances or the remedying of defects were served, and in nine instances these were followed up by the service of statutory notices. One house owner failed to comply with the statutory notice and a

nuisance order was obtained against him in the Police Court. He then carried out the work specified on the notice.

Details of the defects remedied will be found in a summary at the end of this report.

## Insect Pests

Assistance in the eradication of insect pests from dwelling houses is given in all cases where a householder requests such help.

The number of houses treated for various insect pests by the Corporation staff is as follows :

Ants . . . . .	34	Woodworm . . . . .	7
Beetles . . . . .	10	Fleas . . . . .	2

It is interesting to note that I have not seen a house infested with bugs since 1953 and that the flea has become a rare insect in Retford. These results are due to two causes, viz : the higher standard of household cleanliness and the high efficiency of the modern synthetic insecticides.

The refuse tip was dusted at intervals with Gammexane for the destruction of flies and crickets and we keep a look-out for other dumps where fly breeding is possible so that the refuse can be moved or treated with insecticide.

## Rodent Control

This work is undertaken by the local authority without charge to householders and at cost to all other occupiers of rat infested premises or land.

We do get prompt notification of the existence of rats from householders and there are many business owners who take advantage of the service offered.

140 Premises, infested with rats, were treated by the Corporation's operator, in most cases a complete clearance being effected. The actual number of dead rats picked up was 382 but this would be only a small fraction of the number actually killed.

Occasionally trouble arises when rats die under the floors of dwelling houses or business premises and during 1955 we had three instances where flooring had to be taken up in order to remove the carcasses of the vermin.

The poison in general use is *Warfarin*, but Zinc Phosphide is used occasionally under special circumstances.

*Warfarin* is a blood anti-coagulant and causes the rodents to die from internal haemorrhage. The rats eat it freely and do not appear to be suspicious of it even when they are themselves suffering the ill-effects.

Calcium Cyanide dust is used for blowing into the holes of rats out in the fields and properly used is very efficacious.

## **Common Lodging House**

There is one registered house in the town with accommodation for 41 persons. I made 21 visits to the house during the year and one notice was served for the abatement of contraventions. At the end of the year this was an outstanding notice requiring extensive repairs to the property and the keeper was warned that registration would cease unless the work was completed early in 1956.

We spray the premises and dust the beds occasionally with insecticides and any inmates known to be infested with lice are cleansed at the Cleansing Station.

It is most undesirable for children to be resident in any common lodging house but it is extremely difficult to prevent this happening at times in Retford.

## **Dustbins**

The Corporation provide and maintain dustbins at dwelling houses at a charge of 5/- per annum per bin. During the year the Government saw fit to make new dustbins liable to purchase tax, which is largely a tax upon local authorities who are by far the largest purchasers of these necessities of life. We shall now probably incur an annual loss in working this scheme.

During 1955, 245 dustbins were supplied under the scheme, which incidentally does not include the provision of bins to Council owned houses.

## **Mortuary**

The Corporation has for many years provided and maintained a public mortuary.

In the year 1955, 27 cases were brought into the mortuary principally for post-mortem examinations. Of these, 19 cases were brought in from the Rural District area and the Rural Council makes a contribution towards the cost of maintenance.

## **FOOD INSPECTION**

### **Meat**

There are three slaughterhouses in the Borough for the slaughter of animals intended for human food. The Grove Lane abattoir is controlled by a joint sub-committee of the two Retford Councils and is used by the majority of the butchers in their areas. The Borough Council issued a licence for a slaughterhouse to a private firm who had extended and modernised premises which were licensed before the war. Another butcher appealed to the magistrates after having his application for a licence for an old registered slaughterhouse refused. When the case was heard the butcher produced plans for a new slaughterhouse to be built on the site of this old one and the magistrates allowed his appeal and

instructed the Council to licence the new slaughterhouse, when built, for a period of five years.

As in previous years all the carcasses and organs of animals slaughtered for human food were inspected before removal from the slaughterhouses. The Sanitary Inspectors of the East Retford Rural District Council participate in the work of meat inspection and it would be quite impossible for me to do the necessary inspections without their aid. Unfortunately Sunday slaughtering and Sunday work for the inspectors are the regular procedure each weekend.

A comparison of the number of animals slaughtered in Retford during the past seven years is as follows :

	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
1955 .....	2,633	144	3,862	6,255
1954 .....	2,614	709	9,201	5,616
1953 .....	3,521	1,026	10,635	3,775
1952 .....	3,907	1,043	12,509	2,821
1951 .....	4,176	1,514	8,262	1,305
1950 .....	3,956	1,483	10,017	633
1949 .....	2,802	1,370	9,987	374

The percentage of animals affected with tuberculosis has shown a marked reduction and it would appear that the efforts of the animal health division of the Ministry of Agriculture are bearing fruit. There is still need for a great effort before the disease is finally banished from our farms.

**Percentages affected with Tuberculosis**

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Cattle ....	31.83	28.28	23.20	22.39	20.22	18.09	13.59
Pigs.....	12.30	12.48	8.27	6.94	5.72	5.27	3.27
Calves....	0.80	1.66	0.26	0.47	0.28	0.42	0.69

The total weight of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption was 64,497 lbs. The previous seven years were as follows :

1954 .....	84,690 lbs.	1950.....	176,927 lbs.
1953 .....	109,121 lbs.	1949.....	122,156 lbs.
1952 .....	139,368 lbs.	1948.....	120,719 lbs.
1951 .....	142,086 lbs.		

All this condemned meat is stained with a green aniline dye and is sold for conversion, after sterilisation, into animal foods, fats, bones, and fertilizers.

**Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part**

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed . .	2022	611	144	3862	6255	Nil
Number inspected	2022	611	144	3862	6255	Nil

**All diseases except  
Tuberculosis  
& Cysticerci**

Whole carcasses condemned.....	14	23	13	52	32	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.....	<i>Accurate figures cannot be given.</i>					
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci....	<i>Accurate figures cannot be given.</i>					

**Tuberculosis Only:**

Whole carcasses condemned.....	11	21	1	1	5	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.....	— 326 —	Nil	Nil	200	Nil	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis.....	-13.595%	0.69%	0.026%	3.27%	Nil	

**Cysticercosis**

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned..	18	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by re- frigeration .....	18	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

The causes for condemnation of whole carcasses were as follows :

## Cattle

Tuberculosis . . . . .	32
Emaciation and/or Oedema . . . . .	13
Parturition with sepsis . . . . .	4
Parturition with injuries . . . . .	1
Pyæmia . . . . .	4
Black leg . . . . .	2
Delayed evisceration with decomposition . . . .	2
Enteritis . . . . .	3
Septic mammitis . . . . .	2
Injuries . . . . .	2
Anthrax . . . . .	1
Pyelonephritis . . . . .	1
Septic pericarditis . . . . .	1
Septicæmia . . . . .	1

## Sheep

Tuberculosis . . . . .	1
Emaciation and/or Oedema . . . . .	21
Congestion and/or decomposition . . . . .	16
Acute mammitis . . . . .	6
Septic pneumonia . . . . .	4
Parturition . . . . .	3
Septic pericarditis . . . . .	2

## Pigs

Tuberculosis . . . . .	5
Emaciation and/or Oedema . . . . .	16
Septicæmia . . . . .	5
Swine Fever . . . . .	4
Erysipelas . . . . .	3
Enteritis . . . . .	2
Jaundice . . . . .	1
Injuries . . . . .	1

## Calves

Tuberculosis . . . . .	1
Emaciation . . . . .	5
Immaturity . . . . .	4
Pyæmia . . . . .	4

There are considerable numbers of casualty animals slaughtered in Retford by one firm and it is this factor which causes the rather heavy condemnation of meat. The animals slaughtered by the ordinary family butcher in the town and rural area are of very high quality and any condemnation of meat from this source is rare.

Other food condemned

During 1955 I paid 238 visits to food shops and markets for the dual purpose of inspecting the food and premises. I append a list of food condemned, mostly for decomposition.

Tinned foods.....	452 tins	Corned Beef .....	78 lbs.
Bacon .....	45 lbs.	Packets of cereals	6 pkts
Ox tongue .....	45½ lbs.	Oranges .....	100
Cheese .....	29 lbs.	Pineapples .....	5
Processed cheese .....	3 boxes	Sugar .....	44 lbs.
Ham and veal.....	235 lbs.	Cereals (loose) ..	71 lbs.
Beef.....	263 lbs.	Peaches .....	40 doz.
Cucumbers.....	36	Peach Pulp .....	14 lbs.
Jellied Veal.....	24 lbs.		

Food Hygiene

At the end of the year new regulations came into operation on this subject. During 1955 therefore we were in an interim period when the department was loth to ask for structural alterations to buildings which might not be quite in order under the new proposed regulations.

In six cases notices were served requiring occupiers to comply with the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and these notices were all complied with, together with four notices which were outstanding at the end of 1954. Owing to pressure of other work in the Department, especially Housing and Infectious Disease Control, it is not possible for me to devote as much time to Food Hygiene as this important work should have, but I hope to be able to do much more in 1956.

Bakehouses

During 1955 the number of bakehouses in the Borough was reduced to six and I paid 13 visits to these establishments, several visits being in the company of the Medical Officer. No contraventions of the Food and Drugs Acts were discovered.

Ice-Cream

There are two premises in the Borough registered for the manufacture of ice-cream, and numerous shops registered for the sale of ice-cream wrapped as received from the manufacturer.

The results of samples submitted for examination are as follows :

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Satisfactory ..	22	16	23	24	15	7	6
Unsatisfactory	11	13	3	1	7	3	—
	33	29	26	25	22	10	6

**Milk**

There are two dairies on our register and 24 visits were paid by me occasionally in the company of the Medical Officer of Health. One contravention of the regulations was discovered and this was remedied after service of an informal notice.

Cowsheds and dairies on the farms are under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture.

**Atmospheric Pollution**

We have no apparatus in the Borough for the recording of atmospheric pollution. During 1955 two serious nuisances were caused in the Borough : (1) by the emission of black smoke, and (2) by the emission of smoke and grit.

After informal action by the Borough Council both these nuisances were remedied, in the first case by conversion to a mechanically fed oil furnace, and in the second case by extensive alterations to the furnace and to the chimney.

There is considerable atmospheric pollution from the engines of the railway. Retford is a railway junction of some importance, with engine cleaning sheds, and the houses adjoining the permanent way and sheds do suffer from smoke nuisance. It is difficult to find any remedy.

F. R. SMITH, *Sanitary Inspector*

**Summary of Visits made during the year**

Houses inspected, Public Health Acts . . . .	112
Houses inspected, Housing Acts . . . . .	236
Complaints investigated . . . . .	78
Common Lodging House . . . . .	21
Nuisances investigated . . . . .	50
Factories visited . . . . .	25
Re infectious diseases . . . . .	209
Premises visited re rats and mice . . . . .	92
Interviews with owners, etc, on site . . . . .	54
Revisits to properties under notice . . . . .	247
Bakehouses . . . . .	13
Visits to knackers Yard, offensive trades, etc.	53
Shops Act . . . . .	34
Visits re smoke . . . . .	12
Slaughterhouses . . . . .	1172
Butchers' Shops . . . . .	82
Markets and other food shops . . . . .	238
Ice-cream premises . . . . .	21
Dairies . . . . .	24
Petroleum Acts . . . . .	16
Caravans . . . . .	30
Miscellaneous . . . . .	42
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# Summary of Nuisances abated during the year

Foul or defective drains or closets . . . . .	81
Defective house roof and spoutings . . . . .	52
Damp or defective walls and/or plaster . . . . .	24
Defective yard paving . . . . .	7
Defective house floors . . . . .	17
Defective house windows . . . . .	25
Defective cooking ranges and fireplaces . . . . .	13
Defective sinks . . . . .	12
Dirty or verminous houses . . . . .	13
Nuisances from manure or animals . . . . .	6
Defective water supplies . . . . .	9
Nuisances from smoke . . . . .	2
Miscellaneous nuisances . . . . .	8

# Contraventions of Order or Byelaws abated during the year

	<i>Found</i>	<i>Abated</i>
Food shops and stores . . . . .	6	10
Dairy . . . . .	1	1
Factory . . . . .	6	5
Common Lodging House . . . . .	1	—
	—	—
	14	16
	—	—

# FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	7	4	Nil	Nil	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority . . .	2	87	46	6	Nil	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) . . .	3	—	—	—	—	3
TOTAL . . . . .		94	50	6	—	

# 2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (7)	M/c. line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1).....	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2) .....	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)...	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ....	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :	9	2	1	—	—	—	9
(a) Insufficient .....	10	4	4	—	—	—	10
(b) Unsuitable or defective...	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out- work) .....	60	6	5	—	—	—	60
TOTAL ....							

# INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE

Disease	At all Ages	under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over	Age not k'wn
Diphtheria .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery .....	61	2	2	1	4	5	33	7	1	2	-	-	-	4
Encephalitis .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas .....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Food Poisoning .....	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	1	-
Malaria .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles .....	61	1	2	5	10	16	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever .....	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-
Typhoid Fever .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia .....	14	-	-	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	3	3	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis .....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever .....	13	-	-	1	1	3	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary ..	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	-
Tuberculosis, Non-Pulmonary .....	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough .....	22	2	4	3	3	2	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS .....	186	5	8	11	20	27	78	8	2	8	4	5	6	4

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED MONTH BY MONTH

DISEASES	Total	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Diphtheria . . . . .	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery . . . . .	61	2	44	13	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Encephalitis . . . . .	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas . . . . .	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning . . . . .	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Malaria . . . . .	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles . . . . .	61	-	2	1	1	3	6	9	33	5	-	-	1
Meningococcal Infection . . . . .	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever . . . . .	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever . . . . .	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia . . . . .	14	5	1	3	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia . . . . .	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis . . . . .	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis . . . . .	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever . . . . .	13	5	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary . . . . .	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-
Tuberculosis, Non-Pulmonary . . . . .	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough . . . . .	22	1	1	7	8	1	1	2	-	1	-	-	-
TOTALS . . . . .	186	13	53	24	14	5	8	11	36	11	4	6	1

# INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN ELECTORAL WARDS

DISEASES	Total Notified	South Ward	East Ward	West Ward	Admitted to to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery . . . . .	61	20	1	40	—	—
Encephalitis . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas . . . . .	1	—	1	—	—	—
Food Poisoning . . . . .	4	—	1	3	2 (2a)	—
Measles . . . . .	61	14	9	38	—	—
Malaria . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever . . . . .	3	—	—	3	3 (3a)	—
Typhoid Fever . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia . . . . .	14	5	1	8	4 (3b, 1c)	5
Puerperal Pyrexia . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paralytic Poliomyelitis . . . . .	1	—	—	1	1 (1a)	—
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever . . . . .	13	5	1	7	8 (7d, 1e)	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis . . . . .	4	1	2	1	3 (2c, 1f)	2
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis . . . . .	2	1	—	1	—	—
Whooping Cough . . . . .	22	5	4	13	—	—
TOTALS . . . . .	186	51	20	115	21	7

(a) Lodgemoor Isolation Hospital, Sheffield.

(b) Retford & District Hospital.

(c) Kilton Hospital, Worksop.

(d) Carlton Isolation Hospital.

(e) Doncaster Isolation Hospital.

(f) Newstead Sanatorium, Fishpool.



